

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office action dated April 13, 2006. Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner restricted the above-identified patent application, requesting election of a single group of claims for prosecution under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and election of a single species. In response, applicant has (1) elected Group I (method claims 1-20), (2) added new method claims 33-56 directed to the invention of Group I, (3) canceled claims 1-32, without prejudice, and (4) elected the species of Figure 11.

I. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner required election of one of the following two groups of claims for prosecution:

Group I: Claims 1-20, drawn to a method; OR

Group II: Claims 21-32, drawn to an apparatus.

In response, applicant elects the invention of Group I (corresponding to method claims 1-20) for prosecution in the present application. However, for reasons discussed below, applicant has canceled original claims 1-20 and added new claims 33-56 directed to the same invention. Furthermore, applicant has canceled the claims of Group II (claims 21-32), without prejudice.

II. New Claims

The present communication adds new claims 33-56, including three new independent claims (namely, claims 33, 48, and 54) and twenty-one new dependent claims (namely, claims 34-47, 49-53, 55, and 56). These claims more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the elected invention that applicants would like to

patent first. Exemplary support for the new claims is shown, without limitation, in the following table:

Claim	Exemplary Support
33	Claims 1 and 3; page 6, lines 20-23
34	Claim 4
35	Claim 5
36	Claim 6
37	Page 23, lines 22 and 23
38	Page 23, lines 22 and 23
39	Claim 21
40	Claim 21
41	Claim 12
42	Claim 2
43	Claim 7
44	Claim 8
45	Claim 9
46	Claim 10
47	Claim 11
48	Claims 1, 3, and 21; page 6, lines 20-23; page 7, lines 6-8; page 14, lines 8 and 9
49	Claim 5
50	Claim 6
51	Claim 12
52	Claim 9
53	Page 6, lines 10-13
54	Claims 1, 3, and 21; page 6, lines 10-13 and 20-23; page 7, lines 6-8; page 14, lines 8 and 9
55	Claim 6
56	Claim 9

III. Election Requirement

The Examiner also required a species election from one of the following:

Species I: Figure 3;
Species II: Figure 4;
Species III: Figure 6;
Species IV: Figure 9;
Species V: Figure 11; OR
Species VI: Figure 12.

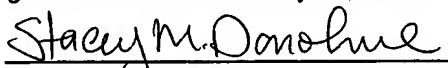
In response, applicant elects Species V, corresponding to Figure 11. Applicant believes that claims 33 and 35-56 read on the elected species of Figure 11.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant has responded fully to the restriction requirement. However, if the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact Stan Hollenberg (Reg. No. 47,658) or the undersigned attorney of record, both at 503-224-6655.

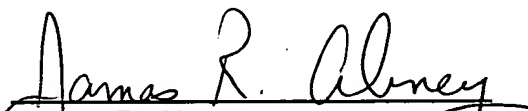
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Stacey M. Donohue

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.


James R. Abney
Registration No. 42,253
Customer No. 23581
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679
Attorney of Record